

Quarterly List of WGBH-TV Programming Providing the Most Significant Treatment of Community Issues - WGBH-TV (October-December 2012)

I. Education/Schools/Youth

Frontline, N 10/22/12, 10pm, 60 min.

“Poor Kids” - FRONTLINE spent months following three young girls who are growing up against the backdrop of their families' struggles against financial ruin. The result is an intimate portrait of the economic crisis as it's rarely seen, through the eyes of children. At a time when one in five American kids lives below the poverty line, Poor Kids is an unflinching and revealing exploration of what poverty means to children, and to the country's future.

Greater Boston, L 12/06/12, 7pm, 30 min.

James McCarthy was inaugurated at the ninth president of Suffolk University yesterday. McCarthy announced a number of initiatives including: seek more local and global partnerships with organizations that provide mentorship, internships, and career opportunities; expand the school's career services program; and develop a curriculum that will prepare all undergraduates for an effective transition from student to entry-level position.

After Newtown, N 12/21/12, 8pm, 30 min.

After the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, PBS continues to analyze and illuminate the issues of access to guns and the politics of gun laws, mental illness in young adults, the science of detecting violent impulses and how communities react to unspeakable tragedy and begin to heal. The special brings together the resources of the PBS NEWSHOUR, FRONTLINE, WASHINGTON WEEK, NEED TO KNOW and NOVA. Gwen Ifill anchors the broadcast, which will include studio interviews and insightful discussion with regular contributors to WASHINGTON WEEK.

II. Housing/Urban Development

Greater Boston, L 10/24/12, 7pm, 30 min.

Our special series is focusing on three bellwether cities and towns - all facing critical issues in this election season. Tonight - Jared Bowen heads to Fitchburg where a cursory view would tell you things are bleak - but there is a bright light.

Greater Boston, L 11/27/12, 7pm, 30 min.

The massive natural-gas explosion that rocked Springfield was a tragedy for that city - which is still rebuilding from the tornado that struck last year. But the Springfield blast also raises a question for other cities - including Boston: whether it's water, electricity or gas - can we really trust the utilities we've come to take for granted?

Greater Boston, L 11/28/12, 7pm, 30 min.

Today in Everett, casino magnate Steve Wynn detailed his plans to build a casino off Route 99— a stone's throw from Bunker Hill Community College and three miles from downtown Boston.

III. Public Safety/Crime/Justice

Greater Boston, L 10/18/12, 7pm, 30 min.

Since the September 11th attacks, police departments around the country greatly increased efforts to collect intelligence on those who might engage in crime and terrorism. But now, the American Civil Liberties Union is accusing the Boston Police Department of going too far - even spying on peace activists.

Greater Boston, L 12/13/12, 7pm, 30 min.

Attorney General Martha Coakley will be a guest to discuss the mistrial of former Massachusetts Treasurer Tim Cahill. The jury was deadlocked in the corruption trial of the former gubernatorial candidate - accused of using his position at the Treasury to boost his campaign.

Greater Boston, L 12/18/12, 7pm, 30 min.

Dwayne Moore was convicted yesterday of four counts of first-degree murder. Today, Moore will be sentenced for the 2010 slayings of Levaughn Washum-Garrison, Simba Martin, Eyanna Flonory, and 2-year-old Amanihotep Smith.

IV. Needs of Special Interest Groups

Greater Boston, L 10/02/12, 7pm, 30 min.

By most accounts, Mitt Romney needs something of a knockout tomorrow night in Denver - the first of three nationally televised presidential debates. With the latest polls suggesting President Barack Obama is building a slim but decisive lead in key battleground states, the debates may offer Romney his last chance to regain lost ground. As history shows, debates can matter much.

Greater Boston, L 10/18/12, 7pm, 30 min.

When Mitt Romney used the phrase "binders full of women" in this week's debate it sparked an online phenomenon - and pushed women's issues to the forefront of the race. Now both Romney and Obama are trying to convince female voters in key swing states that come November 6 - they're the man that women want in the White House. Adam Reilly has more.

Independent Lens, N 12/17/12, 10pm, 60 min.

Fred Fay's life proves that one man can change the world, even though he has to lie flat on his back just to stay alive. LIVES WORTH LIVING looks at Fay's struggle to survive after a spinal cord injury and the small group of dedicated activists who formed the Disability Rights Movement to drive the nation towards equal rights.

V. Employment/Unemployment/Poverty

Independent Lens, N 11/12/12, 10pm, 60 min.

"Park Avenue: Money, Power & The American Dream" - Academy Award-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney ("Taxi to the Dark Side," "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room") presents his take on the gap between rich and poor Americans in "Park Avenue: Money, Power & the

American Dream." Gibney contends that America's richest citizens have "rigged the game in their favor," and created unprecedented inequality in the United States. In this film, Gibney states that while income disparity has always existed in the U.S., it has accelerated sharply over the last 40 years. As of 2010, the 400 richest Americans controlled more wealth than the bottom 50 percent of the populace -- 150 million people. In the film, Gibney explains why he believes upward mobility is increasingly out of reach for the poor.

Moyers & Company, N 11/04/12, 5pm, 60 min.

If you think America's vast economic inequality - the gap between the richest Americans and everyone else - happened by accident, think again. Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson -- "the Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson of political science" -- delve into Winner-Take-All Politics, their book on "How Washington Made the Rich Richer -- And Turned Its Back on the Middle Class." The show includes testimony of middle class Americans at a Senate hearing about the impact of hard times on families, as well as an essay on how Occupy Wall Street reflects a widespread belief that politics no longer works for ordinary people. Uncovering the ways Washington helps the rich get richer.

Need to Know, N 12/15/12 4:30am, 30 min.

Correspondent Stacey Tisdale travels to Memphis to examine if the city's experimental "Family Rewards" program is helping combat poverty. The program pays low-income students and their parents for everything from good attendance and good grades to regular visits to doctors and dentists

VI. Environment/Ecology

Frontline, N 10/23/12, 10pm, 60 min.

"Climate of Doubt" - Four years ago, climate change was hot. Politicians from both parties, pressed by an anxious public, seemed poised to act. But that was then. Today, public opinion about the climate issue has cooled and politicians either ignore the issue or loudly proclaim their skepticism of scientific evidence that human activity is imperiling the planet. What's behind this reversal? FRONTLINE correspondent John Hockenberry, of PRI's The Takeaway, goes inside the organizations that fought the scientific establishment, environmental groups, and lawmakers to shift the direction of debate on climate issues and redefine the politics of global warming.

The New Environmentalists, N 11/10/12, 7pm, 30 min.

"From Kenya to the Arctic Circle" In the latest installment of the Emmy award winning series features six passionate and dedicated activists who have placed themselves squarely in harm's way to battle intimidating adversaries, while often creating partnerships with unlikely allies. The New Environmentalists share a common goal, safeguarding the Earth's natural resources from exploitation and pollution, while fighting for environmental justice in their communities.

Greater Boston, L 11/27/12, 7pm, 30 min.

Since the 1950's the US has saved countless birds and animals from the brink of extinction - from beavers, to wolves to eagles - but now the unintended consequences are that we live side by

side with many of these creatures. In his new book Nature Wars, Jim Sterba tells us how and why this happened.

VII. Medical and Mental Health/Social Services

Greater Boston, L 10/03/12, 7pm, 30 min.

Medical marijuana is already legal in 17 states - and this fall, Massachusetts has a chance to join that group. Ballot Question 3 would authorize doctors to prescribe cannabis to treat debilitating medical conditions. But as medical marijuana comes closer to becoming a reality in the Bay State - opponents are urging voters not to let compassion cloud their common sense.

Greater Boston, L 11/01/12, 7pm, 30 min.

When Massachusetts residents cast their ballots for president and congress, they'll also be voting on a proposal to legalize physician-assisted suicide. Just a few weeks ago, Ballot Question 2 seemed headed for easy passage. But then the opponents started to get more vocal—and now the momentum seems to have reversed.

Greater Boston, L 11/08/12, 7pm, 30 min.

At least 30 people dead from contaminated medicine and thousands of drug convictions in question due to tainted evidence. Those are the respective outcomes of the scandals surrounding the Framingham compounding pharmacy and the state drug lab. They also share a common thread - both the compounding pharmacy and the drug lab fall under the supervision of the state's Department of Public Health. Now, three legislative committees are investigating whether the Department failed to provide proper oversight - and failed to protect the public.

VIII. Economy/Business

Greater Boston, L 10/16/12, 7pm, 30 min.

A123 Systems of Waltham - which makes rechargeable lithium-ion batteries for electric cars - filed for bankruptcy protection in federal court today. The company was one of the state's bright hopes for the revolution in green energy having received nearly \$250 million dollars in federal grants. In the end, the company was plagued by problems with its batteries and a hybrid car industry slow to take off.

Greater Boston, L 10/23/12, 7pm, 30 min.

Gloucester is still one of top 20 fishing ports in the country. But declining fish stocks and new federal quotas have dramatically changed the industry. We spoke with residents there about the role of government in their industry - and which senate candidate would best advocate for them.

Greater Boston, L 11/07/12, 7pm, 30 min.

There is no stranger day in the political calendar than the day after election day. It's so suddenly OVER - like falling off a cliff. Which could be a good metaphor for what President Obama now faces in his second term - a host of thorny problems await the president - starting with the so-

called fiscal cliff that America could fall off - unless some bi-partisan agreements come to fruition before the New Year.

IX. Family/Morality/Religion

Independent Lens, N 10/29/12 10pm, 60 min.

“Love Free or Die” - Faith, love, marriage, homosexuality and the Episcopal Church collide in the first openly gay Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Robinson is a man whose two primary passions are in direct conflict: his love for God and for his partner Mark. Robinson is the first openly gay person to become a bishop in the historic traditions of Christendom. His consecration by the Episcopal Church in 2003, to which he wore a bullet-proof vest, caused an international stir. He becomes the focal point as American churches debate whether or not lesbian and gay people are equal to heterosexuals in the eyes of God, while the United States at large struggles with legal equality for gays and lesbians.

Frontline, N 11/13/12, 9:30pm, 90 min.

“The Suicide Plan” - You have an incurable illness, you want to die, and you want help dying -- what can you do? People who are terminally ill and live in Oregon or Washington can openly ask a doctor for help, but in the rest of country, where physician-assisted suicide is illegal, people who are suffering turn in secret to friends, family members and even activist organizations. In this film, FRONTLINE explores the shadow world of assisted suicide, where the lines between legality and criminality are blurred as never before. With intimate access to decisions near the end of life, FRONTLINE takes viewers inside one of the most polarizing social issues of our time -- told not only by the people choosing to die, but also by their "assisters," individuals and right-to-die organizations at risk of prosecution for their actions to hasten death.

Greater Boston, L 11/19/12 7pm, 30 min.

“1 Guest: Eugene Rivers” - The bold, the outspoken, the often controversial, but ALWAYS honest Reverend Eugene Rivers. Not afraid to speak his mind - Reverend Rivers has spent his entire life in the streets - first as a gang member himself - then working to save other young men and women from living the life he was fortunate enough to leave behind.